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THE NGO JOINT INITIATIVE FOR URBAN ZIMBABWE



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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall goal of the Joint Initiative for Urban Zimbabwe (JI) project is to promote, improve and protect sustainable livelihoods for urban and peri-urban communities in Zimbabwe through the effective response and information coordination of urban actors. The JI is implementing a Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Disaster Risk Reduction, and Agriculture project in five urban areas, Bulawayo, Chitungwiza, Harare, Masvingo and Mutare with CRS, Africare, Oxfam, CARE and Mercy Corps implementing the same initiatives in the different towns respectively. Under WASH, the project is promoting health and hygiene through community and school health clubs, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), solid waste management, clean up campaigns and promotion of Water Guard for point of use water treatment. Under the agriculture component, the project is promoting compost production (making use of solid waste) and seed multiplication, so as to improve urban agriculture productivity. The operational environment during the reporting period was calm, with no incidences of political interference.

2.0 PROGRESS REPORT

SECTOR 1: WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

Objective: To increase communities' resiliency to WASH-related shocks, such as disease outbreaks.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Solid waste management

In Chitungwiza, the community waste recycling training conducted during the last quarter was actualized, with seven beneficiaries managing to sell waste plastics to Conductus Investments where the lowest amount received was \$18 after selling 30kg @\$0.60 and the highest earning was \$90 for selling 150kg @\$0.60. The community is now motivated to continue to collect waste plastic to generate income. This was hailed as a sustainable way of enhancing cleanliness as community members will be having financial interest in collecting waste. In Masvingo, the project, in collaboration with the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), managed to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment for the plastic recycling center of a community based organization (CBO) that was formed by the program and it was found to be compliant. In Mutare, the program is winding up and the major activity was monitoring activities at the plastic recycling centre. The group managed to sell two tons of pelletized plastic and managed to get \$1600. Efforts were made to secure more lucrative markets and more buyers were discovered in Harare. The eight youth were also trained in business management and market linkages to strengthen their business standing and EMA donated two push carts to the youth to facilitate the collection of plastics. In Mbare, 18 anti-litter monitor groups were linked to a waste recycling company called Clean and Green which can come and collect the sorted waste by category from Mbare so that the groups can realize some income. The company is offering \$0.30 per kg of plastic, \$0.20 per kg of paper and cans. Six steel cages were fabricated and located at two strategic points.

Clean up campaign

In the quarter under review, in Chitungwiza, five community initiated clean-up campaigns were done to give a cumulative total of 21 clean up campaigns attended by 1905 people (488 males & 1417 females). Four spontaneous clean up campaigns were conducted in Masvingo with unwavering support from private companies like the National Blood Transfusion Services, Carswell meats, Montana meats, Nyaradzo Funeral services, and Hunyani National waste paper

company, and the City of Masvingo Waste Management Department. In Bulawayo, a total 15 clean up campaigns were conducted, leading to a total of 52 clean up campaigns conducted by the program since the program inception. All these clean up campaigns were initiated by the communities themselves. In Mutare, three clean up campaigns were initiated and conducted by community members with support from the Mutare City Health Department.

Sanitation Infrastructure and Equipment

In Chitungwiza, reclamation of the second site is ongoing with support from the Health Promotion, Environmental Health, Refuse and Park and Amenities departments. As a result of DRR awareness, community health club members in Ward 5 identified the illegal dumpsites in their wards as a major health hazard for their children. Children are normally seen playing and scavenging on the illegal dumpsite. In that regard, the Ward 5 community is converting an open space into an alternative play center for the children. In Mutare, four sites have successfully been reclaimed in the quarter under review, to give a total of eight sites reclaimed by the program in Mutare.

Hygiene Promotion

As it is the last quarter of the program, Bulawayo, Masvingo, and Chitungwiza conducted some community health club competitions during the quarter as a way of rewarding volunteers who were outstanding in various hygiene promotion activities. All the relevant stakeholders attended the competitions and it was also a way of reinforcing the handover of community health clubs to the local authorities.

Disaster Risk Reduction Training

A refresher training in disaster risk reduction was done for 753 people (232 males and 521 females) and the training culminated in the development of CBDRR action plans across the four wards in Bulawayo. In September 2014, CRS collaborated with Restless Development who were instrumental in facilitating the training of school health clubs against drug abuse at Sobukhazi High School. Drug abuse is one of the hazards identified across all the wards.

Supporting Youth Friendly Centers

Oxfam, through the Works Department, successfully refurbished two Youth Friendly Centers (YFCs), one at Stodart Hall and the other in Matapi. Oxfam provided the materials for repairs and the Works Department provided the artisans and technicians to carry out the works. The repairs include attending to the leaking roofs, repairing the ceiling, putting in place security measures by installing metal screens with keys, replacing doors, and repainting. The two centers were equipped with television sets, desktop computers, desks and chairs and other edutainment materials and resources. The materials were handed over to Harare City Housing and Corporate Services Department. An MoU was signed between Harare City, Harare Central DA's office, Ministry of Youth and the Ward Youth Committees, detailing how the YFCs were going to be operated and run. A list of the equipment donated was also provided to all the stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability in their use.

SECTOR 2.1: IMPROVING AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION / FOOD SECURITY

Objective: To improve urban populations' reliable access to nutritious food through improved incomes and production.

Seed Multiplication

In Chitungwiza, farmers were preparing their land in preparation for the rainy season and the Agritex officer was giving them routine extension support. In Masvingo, the budding and grafting activity scheduled to start in October was delayed until December, as the process was said to be ideal after the onset of the rainy season. The standing agreements signed between the farmers, the Farm & City Centre and the Chiredzi Research Station, will give farmers the assurance to continue with the seed multiplication process and selling of the product at a guaranteed price.

In Bulawayo, CRS facilitated ward-based competitions for the farmers, which were conducted from the 14th up to the 17th of October 2014. Agritex took the lead on judging the farmers' plots, as well as the presentation of the prizes. This was meant to boost the morale of the farmers who are doing well, as well as encouraging those who were not taking this activity seriously.

Compost Making

In Chitungwiza, two more people were trained in compost making to give a cumulative total of 89 out of the targeted 80 beneficiaries. Water challenges remained a hindrance for the widespread adoption of compost making in the city. In Mutare, some residents were discouraged from compost making as some were not managing it well. A follow up training was conducted by Agritex officers to ensure that standards were met in making compost.

Nutrition

Two groups of community health club facilitators were trained on nutritious food production, utilization and accessibility within households. A total of 70 participants (64 females and 6 males) attended the two day training sessions. The topics that were discussed during the training included: definition of nutrition terms, nutrition and malnutrition, food security and balanced diet, intercropping to obtain a healthy diet, healthy handling and food preparation, nutrition for special groups at the household level, and practical cooking of mixed family menus.

Project Close Out Meetings

All the five urban centers conducted stakeholders' project closure meetings to officially review progress of the JI project and its achievements. These meetings were attended by representatives of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, government departments, municipality departments, private sector and other agencies working in the respective urban centers. In Masvingo, the Anti-Littering Task Force was tasked to spearhead the monitoring of initiatives started by the NGO JI project. In Masvingo, a customer feedback meeting was also conducted to allow for resident feedback on the service provision by the City Council, Mercy Corps, EMA and Agritex. In Mutare, the City Council Health Department pledged to facilitate similar feedback meetings every quarter to promote dialogue and the sharing of problems and concerns with residents.

In Chitungwiza, the Health Promotion Department pledged to continue the monitoring of PHHE and solid waste management activities in schools and the community while the Parks and Amenities section under the Housing Department will oversee the maintenance of the reclaimed parks with support from the refuse section. The AGRITEX officer will continue to offer technical and extension support to farmers. The respective stakeholders indicated that the transition will not be felt as they were always involved in the different activities during Africare's absence.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Community health clubs are necessary to obtain critical mass in health and hygiene education, community mobilization, and waste management. They also present an excellent platform for social marketing when working with the private sector.
- Market based systems follow the rules of the economy, such as basic supply and demand, and as such, become self-sustaining. The compost value chain was not viable as there was no interest from other actors for a variety of reasons.
- Projects should start with mainstreaming analysis. While stakeholders profess understanding, mainstreaming (gender, disability, HIV/AIDS, nutrition) issues with regard to programming, it was noted that many stakeholders fail to apply mainstreaming issues when the need arises. This calls for a need of mainstreaming analysis when a project starts to enable providing required capacity building to stakeholders and project teams.
- Community health clubs graduate. With income generating activities becoming the main thrust of CHCs, there is need for recognition by facilitating agencies that they should facilitate their transition into CBOs with time. This transition requires expert facilitation, recognizing the diversity in the CHCs and the realities of the micro and meso economic spheres.
- Edutainment presents an excellent avenue for sharing and disseminating useful information to communities, with ripple effects left within the communities by the materials used.
- Coordinating with other implementing agencies and partners increases the impact of interventions and helps deliver a range of interventions to target groups, as observed during the edutainment events.